

August 30, 1970

Dear Mom and Dad,

I hope the fishing trip went all right and that you have recovered from the terrible seasickness that you must have suffered through. I would never venture out voluntarily on an ocean-going ship. I just hope that we don't have to make any shipboard tests of the electronic device we are building. September ninth I am giving a presentation to the department about the project I am working on. This is something that each group takes turn doing about once a month. The department encompasses quite a large number of divisions and branches so there should be a pretty good audience. I am having some view-graphs made so I can project some drawings on a screen. Next weekend I will have to practice my talk a little bit.

It was quite a surprise, to say the least, to get a letter from Dad as he is not generally known as a letter-writer. Actually, it sort of gets to be a habit and as I can type pretty well it is easy to turn out a letter in a few minutes. You mentioned a man who couldn't find a job dealing with electromagnetic interference. It is really not a very exotic field as I believe all three services do research in it and there is even a journal devoted entirely to such matters. A lot of the Air Force work is done at the Rome Air Development Center which I believe you visited when you were building towers.

Today we ~~went~~<sup>went</sup> out to visit George Washington's birthplace which is about 35 miles from here on the Potomac. It is a National Park now and has been restored to look very much as it did in 1730. It is very lovely and especially peaceful and quiet. In front of the mansion (rebuilt) there is an enormous lawn which extends down to the river. On the sides are stands of trees and in back are the

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fields. About two miles away is the family plot where even George's ~~grand~~ great-grandfather is buried. The house is furnished with 18th. century furniture, dishes, etc. and has a fireplace in every room. The original house burned down in the 1770's and George later lived in other places in Virginia. His mother, of course, eventually settled down in Fredericksburg and her house is still standing. Not far away are the birthplaces of Robert E. Lee and James Monroe, so you can see that we won't be bored on Sunday afternoons. We wish, however, that it would start to cool off. It is well over 90 again today and it sort of saps your energy.

Last night we went up to the District to see a show and go out to dinner. We saw Pornography in Denmark but it was pretty dull and I wouldn't recommend it especially since you have seen I am Curious. Also, Myra Breckinridge is pretty bad. Well, next weekend is Labor Day at last and I am really looking forward to just relaxing by a swimming pool. I cut the grass yesterday and it was quite a job since it was so hot. I know I have told you this before, but it is so surprising to see the grass green and growing even though we don't water it. We have had so little rain but the humidity takes care of it.

I wrote a letter to Gail and explained why we couldn't rent an apartment for them. They would probably have to sign a lease and anyway Southern landlords always insist on seeing the prospective tenants to prevent any blacks from sneaking into their apartments. If Gail can come out a little early, though, we would drive her down there and help her find a place. Goodbye for now.

*John*